

Mrs. Charles L. Brassil
9 Grace Memorial Dr.
East Walpole, MA 02032-1339
Telephone (508) 668-5108

Public Charities Division/Caritas Transaction
Office of Attorney-General Martha Coakley
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

June 28, 2010 A.D.

Dear Attorney-General Coakley:

I am writing to express my opposition to the sale of Caritas Christi, unless or until "stronger guarantees of its continuing Catholic identity are in place."

My mother, who died at age 95, was a patient at Carney Hospital. At the time of her cancer surgery in the early 1980s, at age 71, she had the choice of Carney or a secular hospital nearby. As a life-long Catholic, she would only find comfort at a Catholic hospital, and thus chose Carney. Her recovery was remarkable.

Much is being written today about the importance of the addition of a spiritual component to the healing process. Take away the Catholic hospitals and that component is lost to the Catholic population.

Catholic hospitals are as vital to the communities to which they serve in much the same way as Catholic parishes are the center of spiritual, religious, educational and social activities to the population it serves. Take away Catholic churches, schools, and hospitals, and the population is scattered and moves on. History has often shown neighborhood deterioration left in its wake.

I am currently a patient of doctors of St. Elizabeth Hospital, where my five children were born, my husband was born, and from where he retired after having a leadership role in the establishment of the SECAP program (St. Elizabeth Comprehensive Alcoholism Program). He spoke at various times before the Dept. of Public Health in regard to Certificates of Need, for St. Elizabeth's and as a member of the Mental Health Advisory Board for Norwood Hospital at the time when Norwood was added to the Caritas Christi family of hospitals.

My daughter is currently an RN at Norwood Hospital. She, together with my grandson graduating from Medical School in 2011, are *at risk of potential loss of the protection of a 'conscience clause'*, if the sale of Caritas Christi become a reality and the new owners decide to terminate the Catholic identity which currently exists by acting upon options written into the Notice of Transaction filed by Caritas with the Public Charities Div. of the Attorney-General's Office on May 5, 2010.

A number of years ago, former Cardinal Bernard Law was offered an option of St. Elizabeth's Hospital partnering with Quincy Hospital. He learned that Quincy was performing abortions, about two per year at the time, and Cardinal Law, to his credit, withdrew the deal saying even *one* abortion was too many!

The sale of the Caritas Christi Health Care network to a for-profit, secular entity is a bad idea. I urge all public agencies and private parties involved, to withdraw from the contract unless "stronger guarantees of a continuing Catholic identity are in place."

Thank you for allowing my comments.

Sincerely,

(Mrs) *Claire M. Brassil*
Mrs. Claire M. Brassil

Cc: Dept. of Public Health, Determination of Need Program, 99 Chauncy St. Boston, MA 02111
Cardinal Sean O'Malley